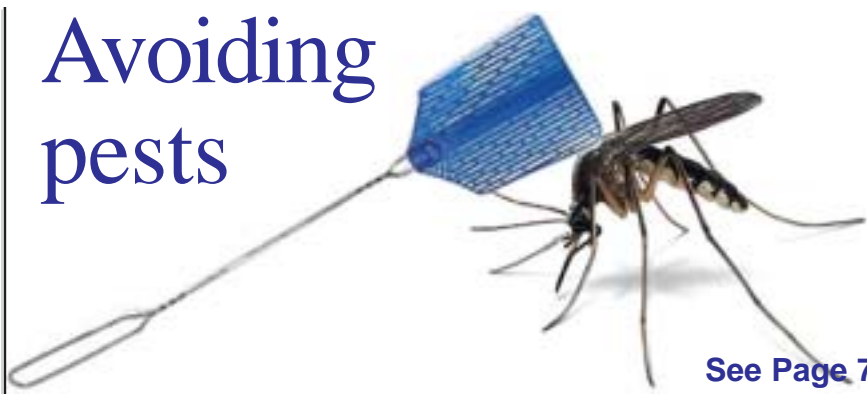




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The Signal



Friday, September 23, 2005

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 25, No. 38

News UPDATE

Oktoberfest

The Fort Gordon Oktoberfest is **Friday to Oct. 2** at Barton Field. Activities include a carnival, food and drink sales, music and more.

Volksmarch

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is holding a Volksmarch **Friday** as part of the Oktoberfest celebration. Start the march from noon-2 p.m. at the Freedom Park Gazebo and follow a family-friendly route through Freedom Park trails, complete with water points.

All participants receive a memento, and commemorative T-shirts will be for sale. Cost is \$5, children under three are free. Call 791-6109 or 791-1254 for information.

Flea market

The Fort Gordon Service Club is hosting its annual fall flea market from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Oct. 1** at Barton Field.

Booth spaces may be purchased at the PX from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. today, Saturday, Wednesday and Sept. 30, and cost \$15-\$45.

For information call 791-2702 or 284-7618.

Commander's course

The Company Commander/1st Sergeant Course is **Oct. 17 to 21** in Darling Hall, Room 229-B. For information, contact John Pitts at 791-9536, or e-mail johnnie.pitts@gordon.army.mil.

Hispanic month celebration

The 15th Regimental Signal Brigade's National Hispanic Heritage Month program is 11:30 a.m. **Oct. 6** at Alexander Hall. The guest speaker is Gail Rosario Fitzpatrick, youth minister, ACS volunteer and community leader.

For information, call Staff Sgt. Terrell Tarver at 791-2424.

Reunion ball

The 551st Signal Battalion will hold its first Alumni Ball at 6 p.m. **today** at the Gordon Club.

Veterans from WWII to the present are invited. Cost is \$20; for information call Sgt. Tiasha Russell at 791-6079.



CFC update

The 2005 Combined Federal Campaign is underway.

As of Tuesday, 619 contributors have donated \$77,610.04. The goal for 2005 is \$360,000. The campaign ends Oct. 14.

Army's G6 inspects network training

Kristy Davies
Signal staff

The progress and improvements of Signal training are very important to the Army's headquarters. Lt. Gen. Steven Boutelle, U.S. Army Chief Information Officer/G6, toured the new Joint Network Node training facilities and classrooms at the General Dynamics C4 Systems Resident School here Monday.

The JNN brings together the latest in commercial and government communication technologies in voice, data and video, according to retired Col. Peter Farrell, director of institutional training at General Dynamics C4 Systems.

While visiting the post to speak at a pre-command course to Signal commanders, Boutelle accepted an invitation to be briefed on the progress of JNN training at the C4 Systems resident school.

The first Advanced Individual Training class on JNN begins Oct. 14 with a maximum of 20 students. The first students will graduate at the end of February 2006. Boutelle expressed concerns that the Soldiers need to be strategically placed upon completion of JNN training, including units who will be deploying in 2006.

"We really need to target (these Soldiers)," added Boutelle.

The first JNN unit deployed to Iraq in summer 2004, and during his visit to the JNN training site, Boutelle shared some of the lessons learned. He explained how Soldiers who had received some JNN training prior to deploying were not prepared to accommodate some of the other systems being used by civilian organizations, foreign military and the other U.S. Armed Forces.

"We need to make sure (we train on) what we call 'training for complexity,'" advised Boutelle. "Train them for the unknown, because that's what the difference between training and education is. Training is how you turn the stuff on and make it all work. Education is unknown (such as) when a unit backs up next to you and they drop a (different system)."

Boutelle previously visited the JNN training site in July for the ribbon cutting ceremony. This visit allowed Boutelle to receive an update and receive a tour of what students will be going through.

"We've got all the curriculum built, we're just in the instructor preparation mode right now," explained Farrell.

The quick reference guide, usually a paperback book, has been replaced by a compact disc which holds everything the AIT students will need.

"This is something they've never had before," explained



Photo by Kristy Davies

Samuel Boulware, Joint Network Training Capability-Spiral supervisor for General Dynamics, demonstrates Joint Network Node training materials to Lt. Gen. Steven Boutelle. Boutelle, the U.S. Army Chief Information Officer/G6, toured the new Joint Network Node training facilities here Monday.

Casey Rhoades, Joint Network Training Capability-Spiral manager, during a demonstration of the QRG for Boutelle. "Normally they get a book that's too heavy and they don't have room for it in their luggage, so you find it in the trash somewhere. Now they have a CD."

"You have an opportunity here," said Boutelle, impressed by the innovation and preparedness. "These first classes that

go through...you can get a lot of after action (input) from these guys and gals."

"We're actually structuring a lot of this material so that it's more appealing to today's generation," said Farrell. "We've taken (the traditional classroom) and digitized it."

The first class is for AIT students, but Farrell expects the training to expand.

"We are not going to start

training officers, noncommissioned officers and warrant officers," said Farrell. "We're going to need some additional equipment and class content," before their training can begin.

Farrell said he felt the meeting went well and hopes they were able to show Boutelle that the JNN training is ready.

"The sooner we get this expertise out there, the better," said Boutelle.

93rd supports Hurricane Katrina relief efforts

Spc. Brandon Aird
93rd Signal Brigade Public Affairs

The 93rd Signal Brigade sent Soldiers south Sept. 1 to support hurricane relief efforts in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Elements from the 56th Signal Battalion were sent to Louisiana and elements from the 67th Signal Battalion went to Camp Shelby, Miss., to support the 5th Army from Houston, Texas.

"Half the higher ups had no communication until we got here," said Spc. Bryan Vicente, 235th Signal Company. "We had to leave out of Fort Gordon quick, fast and in a hurry."

Once Soldiers got to Camp Shelby (100 miles from New Orleans) they were able to see the destruction left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"Literally half the trees on Camp Shelby were knocked down," said Vicente.

Besides trees littering the ground, the first few days there wasn't any power and some of the roads leading to Camp

Shelby were inaccessible.

The 67th didn't know at the time but within a few days President George Bush would be using their video teleconference.

"It was pretty cool knowing that the president was using my equipment to talk to his people," said Vicente.

What the president didn't see was the hard work that went into getting that communications equipment in place and working.

"The first week we (Capt. Folden Peterson and 1st Sgt. Donald Wilson) got about six hours of sleep," said Peterson, Co. C, 67th Sig. Bn.

The 56th was in a week-long training exercise when they got the notice to leave.

"The plan was to train as hard as possible, and then to kick back and enjoy the four day weekend," said Lt. Col. Stephan Middleton, commander of 56th Signal Bn.

What ended up happening was the 56th trained really hard and then was sent to New Orleans – the four day

weekend would have to wait. About 90 Soldiers deployed from the battalion.

The 56th set up their communications equipment under Concourse A at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. The communications services they provided were wired upstairs into the terminal where Soldiers worked and slept. Soldiers got a chance to feel what it was like for Tom Hanks in the movie Terminal.

"One morning I was walking to the bathroom in flip-flops to shave and it dawned on me – I never thought I would be living in (an airport), kind of

like the movie," said Capt. Floyd Forrest, 56th Signal Bn.

Currently the 56th is waiting for word on where to move next while Operation Command Post Louisiana is being planned. Command posts are scattered throughout the city. The problem is finding an undamaged building that can consolidate the 3,000 to 4,000 people since almost all major buildings downtown have water damage and others still don't have power.

Once the place has been selected the 56th will likely provide communications for the command post.



Photo by Tammy Moehlman

Bouchards welcomed

Conrad Hall was filled Tuesday morning with people welcoming Col. Ronald M. Bouchard, deputy commander and assistant commandant of the Signal Regiment, and his wife, Marcia, to Fort Gordon. Here, retired Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, former Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander, welcomes the Bouchards. Brig. Gen. Randolph Strong, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander, and Col. Jack Bryant, chief of staff, welcomed the Bouchard family and spoke about the deputy commander's exemplary career, leading to his current assignment. "He's definitely the right person, in the right place at the right time," Strong said.



Photo by Spc. Brandon Aird

A Soldier from 56th Signal Battalion grounds a generator in downtown New Orleans, Sept. 14. The 56th Sig. Bn. moved a data package downtown to provide C-4 communications to a conference room that was being established.

Battle lab conference addresses Satellite on the Move technology

Maj. Scott Youngson
Special to the Signal

The Battle Command Battle Lab (Gordon) hosted a Satellite-On-The-Move Technology Conference Aug. 31. The conference promoted information sharing among many organizations involved with testing, developing, and acquiring SOTM technologies.

These technologies will provide the warfighter with mobile broadband communication capabilities needed to enhance battle command on the modern battlefield. Representatives from the Army's acquisition community, as well as from the Joint Systems Integration Command, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center - Charleston, and the U.S. Marine Corps attended the conference.

Col. Charles Dunn III, deputy director, and Lt. Col. Edward Eidson, deputy technical director of the Battle Command Battle Lab provided opening comments.

Dunn stressed the need for all parties to: share lessons learned from their testing and evaluation; provide technical insights into the systems under development; and discuss associated system engineering challenges and solutions.

Eidson said the SOTM community must build synergy and improve information sharing of independent developmental efforts in order to achieve the collective goal of providing this state-of-the-art capability to the warfighter quickly and efficiently as possible.

During the conference, Dave Stamm, from office of the Project Manager Army Airborne Command and Control System, provided an overview of the requirement to provide a broadband SOTM communications system to support modern A2C2S applications.

He described the transition from the current expensive and bandwidth limited L-band solution to Ku/Ka band solutions offering much greater network services. He also explained the technical and engineering challenges of installing the system on a rotary wing aircraft.

Maj. Scott Youngson, SOTM Project Officer for BCBL (G), described the ongoing technical evaluation and mobile field testing at the lab which involves testing a variety of satellite antennas and modems offered by industry.

He said that HMMWV-mounted mobile candidate systems show great potential to meet the communication needs of the warfighter in a realistic environment.

This activity is in direct support of the greater Mounted Battle-Command-On-The-Move project. MBCOTM plans to deliver an integrated suite of battle command systems which will provide a com-

mander continuous situational awareness and improved battle command while moving through their battle space.

The Joint Systems Integration Center, formerly known as the Joint Battle Lab, in Suffolk, Va., has recently delivered an initial SOTM capability to V Corps. Lt. Col. Charles Davis described the results of their recent evaluation of V Corps' new Ku band system in Graffenwohr, Germany. He said that the system has been well received by V Corps who plans to deploy the system to Iraq.

Lt. Col. Michael Ryan from PM MBCOTM, assisted by Pat Degroodt from PM Tactical Radio Communications Systems, updated conference attendees on the required function of SOTM technology for MBCOTM. Ryan also outlined the incremental approach that his office was taking in fielding Ku/Ka systems over the next five years.

Their briefing included a

technical description of the first 12 frequency division multiple access SOTM systems planned for Army divisions (UEX) within the next 12 months.

The Standard Integrated Command Post System is another project that will benefit from SOTM technology. Gary Fredrickson from PM Tactical Operations Centers explained how SOTM technology will enable commanders to maintain an updated battlefield Common Operating Picture while transitioning between locations.

This technology will enable commanders to quickly establish communications in the TOC at-the-quick-halt.

Capt. David Josevorsky, U.S Marine Corps CONDOR Satellite Office, briefed the conference on the Marine Corps' Command and Control On-The-Move Network, Digital Over-The-Horizon Relay project.

See Conference, page 11



Photo by Capt. Brenda Suggars

Welcome home

Nineteen Soldiers from Company A, Task Force Lightning, returned from Kuwait Sunday after conducting a Signal survey for the last 100 days. They arrived at Bush Field about 10 p.m., and following a homecoming ceremony early Monday, they bid farewell to the rest of the unit as it headed out to support Bold Knight for the next week.

Remembering the fallen

Tammy Moehlman
Signal staff

Almost everybody recognizes the name Jessica Lynch, the private taken prisoner by the Iraqis during Operation Iraqi Freedom. But there are hundreds of other prisoners of war that were not splashed across the news.

Friday Fort Gordon honored prisoners of war and those missing in action with a ceremony at the POW/MIA memorial located on the corner of Chamberlain Avenue and Kilbourne Street. The event was part of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, a day set aside to remember the courage of servicemembers who bravely went to war and were taken captive or are missing in action.

Friday's ceremony on Fort Gordon honored all POW/MIAs with wreaths, a 21 gun salute, and the playing of Taps. Col. Ronald M. Bouchard, deputy commander and assistant commandant of the Signal Regiment, spoke at the ceremony to a crowd of about 100 including honored guests Brig. Gen. Randolph Strong, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander, his wife Lori Borgna-Strong, retired Maj. Gen. Janet A. Hicks, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry.

"Today's ceremony reaffirms our resolve that they (POW/MIA) are not forgotten," stated Bouchard. "We must remember the sacrifices, selfless service, and pain these heroes and their families endured and continue to endure." Bouchard spoke of an uncle who was taken prisoner during World War II after his plane was shot down. His uncle was held prisoner for 18 months and sustained permanent injuries.

As part of the ceremony, local POW veterans placed small American flags on a wooden cross engraved with the words, "In memory of my fallen buddies." Anyone wishing to honor someone was invited to place a flag on the cross. Hicks stepped

forward to place a flag on the memorial in memory of Spc. Marisa Lau of the 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company, 56th Signal Battalion, who died last year in a training accident.

Many came forward to place a flag on the memorial, including Sgt. Maj. Keena Avery of the 513th MI Brigade. He honored his friend, Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Wilson from Thompson, Ga., who was killed in Mosul, Iraq. The two served together in Alaska. Avery said his friend "was the type of Soldier who went the full length to care for his Soldiers."

The POWs give encouragement and help through studies and classes. They tell us to "never give up," said Avery. "POW/MIAs; those are the people who laid the foundation for today's Soldiers and today's leadership."

Don Donner is a retired master sergeant and former POW. He joined the Army at age 20 and was taken prisoner at age 21. Donner knows how hard it is and wishes he could talk to the servicemembers more today. He, along with other POWs, go to schools and put on classes though the ROTC.

"We talk to them and they're very interested and they listen to everything you say. They will listen and I'm really proud of them for listening to us and asking questions," Donner said about the students.

When Donner was in the military, they didn't have the technology and equipment



Photo by Tammy Moehlman

Veterans place flags atop a cross in memory of fallen Soldiers at the POW/MIA ceremony Friday.

Soldiers have today.

"They're well trained, they've got better equipment, it's so far advanced, the technology today. We didn't have anything like what they've got today," said Donner, about today's Soldiers.

"You had your rifle and that was it," he said, adding that he thinks armored jackets are the best thing ever done for servicemembers.

See POW, page 10

Medical Soldiers mobilized with 3297th

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

The strength of the 3297th U.S. Army Hospital continues to grow.

"The authorized strength of the 3297th is 700," said Col. Carol Bowdoin, 3297th commander. "Our current strength is 1,036. Our strength keeps growing monthly."

On Saturday, another 69 citizen Soldiers were mobilized in a ceremony at the Army Reserve Center here.

"We've cross-leveled to support our active components," she said. "One of the most important jobs in the Army is taking care of our Soldiers."

Many of those mobilized Saturday will head overseas to Germany.

"It's a rare opportunity for you to do something unique, to take part in something larger than yourself," she said.

As medical technology has advanced, Soldiers who in previous wars would have never returned to the battlefield are returning, she said.

Brig. Gen. Randolph P. Strong, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, also spoke to those reservists mobilized.

He said he'd recently been at Eisenhower Army Medical Center for stitches in a minor accident, and he knew that during his visit he probably had encountered at least one person with the 3297th.

And he received the best care, he said.

He thanked those who had volunteered for service and stepped up when the call to fulfill service was placed.

As a fulltime servicemember, Strong said it was difficult for him to imagine having to face their di-



Photo by Charmain Brackett

Members of the 3297th U.S. Army Hospital were mobilized in a ceremony on Saturday at the Army Reserve Center here.

lemma of putting on hold a career in the civilian world to fulfill their duty.

"Words fail to adequately express what your mobilization means," he said.

The reservists will fill 17 medical positions including nurses, nutrition care specialists, respiratory therapists and medics.

Since, Sept. 11, 2001, more than 800 Soldiers with the 3297th have been mobilized to support in 30 different Army installations.

Pfc. Jennifer Lewis said she's looking forward to her work as a food inspector in Germany.

"It will be cool, but I will miss my husband," she said.

Oktoberfest fast approaching

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Barton Field will reflect a slice of Bavaria as Oktoberfest comes to Fort Gordon Sept. 30 through Oct. 2.

Featuring authentic German food, beer and entertainment, Oktoberfest is a popular event.

“Attendance continues to grow. This event is so much fun,” said Steve Walpert, Fort Gordon’s entertainment director.

The Fort Gordon Signal Corps Band, Friendship Singers, Edelweiss Dancers and Jake Herzog and the Bavarian Express are scheduled to perform at various times throughout the weekend.

A disc jockey will provide music between acts.

On Friday, entertainment will begin at noon, and opening ceremonies are at 7 p.m.

On Oct. 1, entertainment will be from noon-11 p.m., and on Oct. 2, there will be entertainment from noon-5 p.m.

A carnival will be held over the weekend as well; the carnival will begin a day earlier than the rest of Oktoberfest.

“It’s a full scale carnival with great rides,” Walpert said.

The carnival will be from 4-10 p.m. Thursday, noon-11 p.m., Friday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Oct., 1, and noon-7 p.m. Oct. 2.

On Oct. 1, there will be two other special events.

The Fort Gordon Service Club’s fall flea market will be from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Space sales for the flea market are tak-



File photo

Traditional German dancing, food, drinks and music will be featured at the Fort Gordon Oktoberfest beginning Friday.

ing place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. today, Saturday, Wednesday, and Friday in the main lobby at the PX. The cost of spaces range from \$15 for a single space purchased by E-4 and below and those living on post to \$45 for outside drive-up and park space.

Also on Oct. 1 will be the Better Opportunities for Single Servicemember’s Car and

Bike Show. The event will be most of the day with judging around noon.

“This is the kind of thing you want to bring your kids to or bring your adult friends. It offers something for everyone,” he said.

For more information, call 791-6779 or go to www.fortgordon.com.

Varied events planned for weekend

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

The 1998 Tony award winning play “Art” will be presented this weekend at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts in Aiken.

Set in the center’s Bechtel Experimental Theatre, the play is about three friends, Serge, Marc and Yvan.

“The story is about three men and their friendship. Art just happens to get in the way,” director Marcia Harris said.

Serge has bought an expen-

sive painting that is all white with white diagonal lines. The painting brings in differing views of what art is and is not.

The play will be at 8 p.m. today and 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$8 for members of the Aiken Community Playhouse and \$10 for non-members.

Call (803) 648-1438 for more information.

BALLET

The Augusta Ballet presents “Dracula” this weekend at the Imperial Theatre.

Set in the Roaring ’20s, the

well-known tale is brought to life with flappers and a bit of humor.

The ballet will be presented at 7 p.m. today and 3 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets range from \$17 to \$40.

For more information, call 261-0555.

SEPTEMBER FEST

A parade, music, vendors and crafters will be part of September Fest in Hephzibah Saturday.

For more information, call Paula Merritt at the Hephzibah

Community Center at 592-2216.

CRUISIN’

The Last Saturday Cruise-In will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Sno-Cap Drive-In on West Avenue in North Augusta.

Hosted by members of CSRA Motor Sports, the cruise-in will feature games and prizes.

Car enthusiasts are welcome to attend the cruise-in even if they don’t have their own show car.

For more information, call 279-4004.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Remember ‘One of our own’ on POW/MIA Day

Col. Randy Pullen
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – This year’s observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day is Sept. 16 and it has a special poignancy to those with ties to the remembered.

As Americans, we should pause to remember our fellow citizens who were prisoners of war in a World War II POW camp – like the heroes of Bataan and Corregidor held in the Cabanatuan POW camp that is the subject of the current film, “The Great Raid” – or who are still missing from the Vietnam War.

It’s one thing, though, when that tie to those remembered is limited to the common bond of citizenship and to those you only know from history books or the movies.

It’s another thing entirely when that fellow American is a member of your family.

A member of our Army family is being remembered this National POW/MIA Recognition

Day – Sgt. Keith “Matt” Maupin of the U.S. Army Reserve’s 724th Transportation Company from Bartonville, Ill.

On April 9, 2004, a convoy from the 724th, en route from Balad to Baghdad airport, was ambushed in one of the most massive such attacks of the Iraq war. In the ensuing action, the 43 Soldiers in the convoy killed or wounded some 200 insurgents. Two of their fellow Soldiers, Sgt. Elmer C. Krause and Spc. Gregory Goodrich, were killed, as were six civilians. One civilian contract employee, Thomas Hamill, was captured but escaped 24 days later.

One Soldier, then-Spc. Maupin, was captured. He remains a captive to this day.

Officially, the Army placed him in a “Whereabouts Unknown” duty status on the day of his capture. A week later, on April 16, 2004, his status was changed to “Missing-Captured.”

Despite claims by the insurgents and an inconclusive video of someone being killed by them, an Army board of inquiry that

met April 6, 2005, to review his status decided to maintain Maupin, who was promoted to sergeant on April 1, 2005, in “Missing-Captured” status.

Neither the Army, the Army Reserve, his fellow Soldiers nor his family have given up on finding him and bringing him home.

At a Nov. 10, 2004, Pentagon ceremony unveiling the Warrior Ethos Display, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker articulated the Army’s commitment to upholding this pertinent tenet of the ethos: “I will never leave a fallen comrade.”

Speaking to the parents of Maupin, who were in attendance, Schoomaker said, “We will not rest until we come to closure, and recover, hopefully soon, your son; we are committed to that.”

“One of our own, Sgt. Matt Maupin of the 724th Transportation Company, remains captured after more than a year,” said Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, in an April 23 message to the men

and women of the Army Reserve.

The Army Reserve chief also mentioned Maupin and his parents at the unveiling of the 88th Regional Readiness Command’s Wall of Heroes Memorial at its headquarters in Fort Snelling, Minn., July 9, 2005. The 724th is an 88th RRC unit.

“He is ever on our minds and always in our hearts,” Helmly said. “I ask each of us spare a moment for his parents ... so, too, should we keep them in our prayers.”

“The Creed states, we will never leave a fallen comrade and for that reason, we stand by the Maupins for their son’s return home.”

Maupin’s unit returned from its tour of duty in Iraq in February. Upon its return, one Soldier in the unit, Spc. Jeremy L. Church, was presented with the Silver Star, the Nation’s third-highest combat award, and the first one earned by an Army Reserve Soldier in the Global War on Terror. He received this decoration for his courageous

actions during the convoy ambush.

Before the unit came home in February, Church re-enlisted for six more years in the Army Reserve.

When asked why he chose to re-enlist, Church said “I’m not through with the military. He’s (Maupin) still over there. Ribbons aren’t coming down until we get him back.”

Previous wars have been much more costly in terms of prisoners of war and missing in action. There are still 30,000 MIAs from World War II, more than 8,000 from the Korean War and, as of Aug. 9 there were 1,815 Americans still listed as MIA from the Vietnam War. Thousands more during these recent wars became POWs with the lucky ones coming home after the war ended; but many others died in captivity, with the only saving grace being that their deaths were confirmed, thus giving their families closure.

To each family of a POW or a MIA, regardless of how many have been captured or are miss-

ing in a conflict, the fate of their loved one brings with it worry, anxiety and pain. Each family prays that their loved one is being treated well if captured and will be released soon to return to a grateful nation and a joyous family. For those missing, the family hopes the loved one makes his or her way back to friendly forces or has the status changed to one of more certainty, as an acknowledged POW or as an identified killed in action.

On POW/MIA Recognition Day, we remember the courage of fellow Soldiers and servicemen and women as they endured captivity. We also remember the equal courage of their family members as they also endured their loved one’s captivity or the agonies of not knowing their fate. We remember and we hope for a conclusion to those trials.

That is what we in the Army family are remembering and hoping this Sept. 16 when we think of Sgt. Keith Matthew Maupin, our only captured/missing Soldier of the current war.

Feedback...

By 2nd Lt. Sharron Stewart

What has been the most important Army Value while supporting hurricane relief?



Selfless service; it helps that we all have a burning desire to assist our fellow Americans in their time of need.

**1st Lt.
Demetrius Howard**
56th Signal Battalion



Duty. Since I’ve been down here, we’ve all been working extremely long days, but you can’t stop because you’re tired – we have people depending on us.

Sgt. Matthew Huckelbery
*518th Tactical Installation
Network Company*



Selfless service. You have to realize that there is a lot to be done and you have to be willing to provide assistance.

Spc. Erika Estell
518th TIN



Duty. You frequently have to stay up all night in order to get the services in.

Spc. Calvin Lee
518th TIN



Duty. It’s been constant work, work, work but everybody cares about doing their job right and getting things done.

Pfc. Timothy Lesperance
518th TIN



Duty. It’s all about getting the mission done and maintaining the shot.

Spc. Christopher Greene
252nd Sig. Co.

Ricky's Tour

‘Getting the Name Changed’

By Mike Jones



The Signal

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Volunteers spin tales for kids at Woodworth’s story time

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Shannon Rogers looks forward to Wednesday mornings.

“It’s a good time for the kids to get out and interact with other kids,” said Rogers who brings her 3-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, and 2-year-old son, William, to Woodworth Library for story time.

Story time is usually about an hour each week, according to librarian Joyce Daniels, who is looking for volunteers to help out.

About 25 children and their parents normally attend the weekly event.

After a break for the summer, story time resumed Sept. 14.

Story times usually start out by doing the “Hokey

Pokey” said Daniels. The children often want to do it more than once, she added.

On Sept. 14, children listened to the book “Arthur’s Reading Race,” and made potato chip bag clips out of a clothes pin and decorated with foam cutouts.

Second Lt. Christopher Averett has volunteered regularly since arriving at Fort Gordon for his Signal Officers Basic Course.

“This is something I don’t have an opportunity to do,” he said.

During the summer reading program, he helped out with “crowd control,” he said. He hopes to be able to use some of his talents the remainder of his time at Fort Gordon.

“I have a radio background, and this is the chance to use it,” he said.

Volunteers are needed to read stories and help with craft activities, said Daniels.

“The parents help a lot,” she said; however more hands can always be used.

At the end of the year, there is a cookout for volunteers.

Special story times over the next few months include a visit by a veterinarian Wednesday. Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre’s Steve Walpert will be a guest reader Oct. 13, and children will make a macaroni skeleton Oct. 20.

The date hasn’t been confirmed yet, but Clifford the Big Red Dog will make a special appearance one Saturday in October, Daniels said.

For more information about story time or to volunteer, call Daniels or Jean Ballejo at 791-7323.



Photo by Kristy Davies

Learning lifesaving

During a lesson on cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Staff Sgt. David Roberts, an instructor with the Practical Nurse Course at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, assists students in Amy Hillman’s fifth grade class at Freedom Park Elementary. CPR was taught during a section on learning the parts and functions of the human body Friday.

Swatting West Nile on post

Tammy Moehlman
Signal staff

There have been no cases of West Nile Virus on Fort Gordon this year and the post has a plan to keep it that way.

“We have what’s called a Pest Management Plan that outlines what we do for all pests,” said Stephen Willard, chief of Environmental, Natural and Cultural Resources Management here.

Gary Pringle is the pest manager for the Directorate of Public Works. A part of his job is to use pesticides to control the larva and adult population of mosquitoes on the post.

“It’s biologically based,” said Pringle. The pesticides used to treat the mosquito population in the post water sources is drinkable and safe to swim in, he said.

“We’ve got to be concerned about what we’re putting in the water,” Willard said about the treatment of pools of water around the post. He recognizes that what is put in the water could eventually make its way into a source of drinking water. His office focuses on keeping pools of water drained on post as much as possible; this helps to reduce mosquitoes’ breeding grounds. This includes unclogging storm drains and treating areas in that system where water cannot be removed.

The adult mosquitoes, which only live a couple of weeks, are controlled by fogging. Fogging is where a truck drives around mosquito saturated areas, at peak times, and sprays a fine mist into the air. The adult mosquitoes then fly into the mist and are killed. They try to minimize the use of pesticides and exposure to humans when fogging.

“Our main role is to do surveillance,” said Maj. Sueann Ramsey, chief of Environmental Health Services, Department of Preventive Medicine. Ramsey says her office’s main role is mosquito surveillance and mosquito education. Her Soldiers set traps and collect mosquitoes. The mosquitoes are then identified and separated by species and gender. They are then sent to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine South in Atlanta. There they are analyzed for the West Nile Virus and a report is sent back with the results. This is done on a weekly basis.

“So far we have not come up positive for any mosquito pools with West Nile Virus,” said Ramsey.

She emphasizes the importance of taking measures to protect yourself from ex-



Army News Service

Environmental control technicians like Airman 1st Class Terrence Lee also check mosquitoes gathered from traps on base. When the type of mosquitoes on the base are determined, they can be controlled.

posure. It is important to wear long sleeve shirts and pants when you are out in the woods or where there are a lot of mosquitoes present. If you do have to go out where mosquitoes are present, make sure you wear bug repellent with DEET and try to avoid times when mosquitoes are most active, she said. Mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk and by avoiding these times, you are avoiding the highest risk times for exposure.

The disease is spread from birds, through mosquitoes to humans.

“If we get a report of dead birds, it makes no difference what kind it is as far as we’re concerned, we’ll go and pick it up and take it to the vet,” said Willard. If the veterinarian finds anything suspicious about the bird and the causes of death, they send it to be tested for the West Nile Virus. If you come across a dead bird, don’t handle it, call Willard at 791-6481 or the Military Police desk at 791-4380.

You may contact Pringle at 791-6076 if you have issues involving water pooling around structures, clogged drains, or other issues related to mosquito control.

CHPPM recommends homeowners

take the following steps to prevent mosquito breeding on their property and to control the adult mosquito population.

- Remove standing water that may accumulate on the property (lawn ornaments, flower pots, old tires, etc.)
- Empty and refresh pet water dishes, watering troughs and birdbaths at least once a week.
- Clean debris from rain gutters and remove any standing water under or around structures or on flat roofs. Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days.
- If you have a swimming pool or spa, keep it chlorinated. If not in use, cover. Make sure water does not collect on the cover.
- Empty children wading pools immediately after use.
- Keep adult mosquitoes out of the home by using screens.
- Use repellents such as DEET if you are working or playing in mosquito infested areas.

See Biting issue, page 10

212th MASH lends medical support during MEDFLAG

Karen Parrish
Army News Service

AMBRIZ, Angola – The last Mobile Army Surgical Hospital in the Army has its tents pitched with all systems “go” in Angola, Africa, for Exercise MEDFLAG 2005, which began Aug. 21 and finished Thursday.

The 212th MASH, 30th Medical Brigade, U.S. Army Europe, is the lead unit for MEDFLAG ‘05’s Task Force Angola, which also includes Air Force personnel, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers.

U.S. European Command schedules a MEDFLAG annually as part of its theater engagement plan, officials said. Each year’s exercise is set in a different African country, and led by a different European service component command, they explained.

“Last year, (U.S. Air Force, Europe) had one in South Africa,” said Col. Angel Lugo, 212th MASH commander. “This year is the Army’s opportunity, USAREUR’s lead.”

By Sept. 10, Task Force Angola had already achieved some major MEDFLAG ‘05 objectives: task force engineers had installed a large water pump in the town of Ambriz that effectively doubled the town’s water supply; the hospital was established and certified; the first Humanitarian Assistance Program delivery was complete; and crisis-response training with Angolan military members was underway.

TENTS HOUSE MANY CLINICS
The 212th MASH facility in Ambriz is a tent complex containing an operating room, intensive care area, obstetric and gynecology clinic, orthopedic clinic, surgery-capable dental clinic, pharmacy and radiology department.

The doctors, nurses and other medical staff of the MASH, Lugo said, will provide patient care and perform 80 to 100 surgeries over a four-day period as part of the exercise.

“Clearly, a MASH is a field hospital focused on doing sur-



Photo by Karen Parrish

Members of Task Force Angola, MEDFLAG ‘05, deliver a portable patient bed to Ambriz health clinic Sept. 9 as part of the humanitarian assistance program part of the exercise.

gical procedures and emergency procedures. That’s our trademark,” he said. “So we informed the Angolan military that as part of the exercise we would establish our hospital, and be able to perform real-world surgeries in our operating rooms, and see patients through our emergency section.”

Lugo said Angolan military medical practitioners are helping to identify potential patients based on exercise limitations.

“We’re capable of holding intensive-care patients, but that’s not the intent here, because you want to select patients who don’t require a lot of follow-up care after surgery,” Lugo said. “We’re not going to be here for a long time.”

The MASH as a unit won’t be around long, either, Lugo said; it is scheduled to convert to a Combat Support Hospital in October 2006.

“This may be one of our last great missions as a MASH,” he said.

OTHER ASSISTANCE
MEDFLAG ‘05 includes three major humanitarian assistance projects apart from hospital-based care: installing a water pump in Ambriz, delivering State Department medical supplies, and medical civic action programs.

The 367th Engineer Battalion sent 15 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from its home station in Minnesota to install the water pump for Ambriz. The engineers deployed Aug. 21 and redeployed Sept. 6, ahead of the task force’s main body.

The Humanitarian Assistance Program, or HAP, is a U.S. State Department effort that collects overstocked medical equipment and supplies and stockpiles it for distribution to other nations.

Maj. Soo Lee Davis, 212th MASH executive officer, said the unit requested and transported eight air load pallets’ worth of HAP medical equipment and supplies, with a value of about \$200,000, from the State Department warehouse in Pirmasens, Germany, to be delivered to three clinics near the MEDFLAG site in Angola.

Choice of equipment was partly to support the clinic visits the hospital staff will conduct during the exercise, she said, and partly to provide long-term help to those clinics.

“Col. Lugo’s guidance was to bring sufficient equipment for us to furnish the patient rooms and patient wards in those clinics as much as possible,” she said. “He wanted to make sure we made an immediate difference.”

The first delivery achieved

that objective, Lugo said. When Task Force Angola troops arrived at Ambriz clinic Sept. 9 with three trucks full of HAP equipment, the facility was sparsely furnished and nearly empty.

A few hours later, after troops had unloaded and set up beds, mattresses, examining tables, bedside tables, IV stands and other equipment, the clinic had a different appearance.

Lugo said, “You would have thought the patients had received treatment – and they had. With new beds, new tables, new IV stands and all new equipment, you could see they felt better already.”

Patients at Ambriz and the two other clinics receiving HAP supplies, Capulo and Loge Grande, will receive further treatment when the MASH staff travels to those sites for MEDCAPS.

For the MEDCAP visits, the hospital will take its specialists to each clinic in turn, where doctors, nurses and other health care professionals will offer general medical, optometry and dental care, along with obstetric-gynecology and preventive medicine education to the Angolan people.

(Parrish serves with U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs.)

Discouragement and burnout

Chaplain (Capt.) Ernest Ibanga
551st Signal Battalion

Burnout is one of the contemporary problems in the Army. The study of Elijah has provided us with a profound insight into the causes and cure for discouragement and burnout.

In 1 Kings, Chapter 18 and 19, Elijah was called by God to draw a decisive issue in Israel, to help Israel turn a corner and return to worship Yahweh alone. One of the most invincible of all the Old Testament prophets is Elijah. From this passage, it was Elijah who challenged the worshippers of Baal to a showdown at the top of Mount Carmel.

Each was to build an altar to his own God, then each was to pray to his own God to send down fire from heaven and burn down the sacrifice at the altar. It is a dramatic story in which God physically displayed His mighty power to the people. And immediately following that event, Elijah faced another situation seemingly insignificant in comparison, but it sent him running in fear.

Elijah was discouraged, he was burned-out. Strange, isn’t it? How in a moment of victory and exhaustion and depletion, Elijah was sent into the spiral experience of depression and discouragement.

Just as Hannibal and Frederick the Great and Washington and other great military leaders in history were never more dangerous after the day of their victory, so was Elijah more vulnerable the day after the day of his victory. He would have been able to stride through the streets of Jerusalem and say, listen the Lord is God in Israel. Instead he turns to his heel and ran for his life.

Discouragement is a tantrum of the emotion objecting to what other people or

God or we have done in circumstances of life. It is a way of judging life on our own and saying, “I will pay for this myself,” or “God, I can run this universe better than you.” It is that mood that comes when things have not gone our way. When the appointment which we had anticipated from God is not met according to our standards and our timetable, and we are drained of the courage we have, we become burned out.

This year, I helped several Soldiers overcome this problem. One of them told me of an experience of being burned out. As a leader, she has taken full responsibility of the future of the battalion on her own heart, she worked harder than anyone else, she forgot about rest and nutrition. She neglected recreation and basic relationships of her life. She felt that she was the only one who took any responsibility, the only one who really cared about anything, and the only one whom God could use.

Eventually, she became drained, her prayers become shallow, and finally she falls into the pit of discouragement and burnout. She came to me for help. We talked about the changes in her lifestyle. We discussed the use of relaxation techniques to manage sympathetic response. How to balance concern and care. The use of positive coping strategies, human support system and a healing community.

I advised her to live by the energy of God. Rather than working for God, let God work through her. To be more forgiving and less of a perfectionist. I was able to not only use the story of Elijah to counsel her, but also sponsored her on a weekend retreat where she came back with new gusto.

Jewish high holidays approaching

Capt. Jonathan Shoenholz
Jewish lay leader

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown Oct. 3 this year, marking the start of the Jewish high holidays. It lasts until nightfall on Oct. 4 or 5, depending on the observer’s religious background.

The holiday is referred to in Leviticus 23:24-25 as “a sacred occasion commemorated with loud blasts,” during which work is not allowed.

Rosh Hashanah means “head of the year,” and the holiday is commonly referred to as the Jewish New Year. It falls on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Jewish calendar, which is traditionally considered the day God created the world.

The mornings of the holiday are spent in a synagogue in prayer, where observers are required to hear loud blasts blown from a ram’s horn, or shofar. One popular custom is eating apples dipped in honey,

a symbol for a sweet year ahead, and the common holiday greeting is “l’shanah tovah,” a wish for a good new year.

The essence of the high holidays, however, is reflection on our actions in the preceding year, repentance for our transgressions, and prayer that God judge us mercifully. A recurring theme in the worship services is that God considers our merits on Rosh Hashanah, and decides who will be rewarded with a good year ahead, as reflected by inscription in the Book of Life.

This judgment does not become final until Yom Kippur, which this year is from sundown Oct. 12 until sundown Oct. 13, when God’s decision is sealed. The days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are referred to as the Days of Repentance or Days of Awe, during which observers are urged to increase in acts of repentance, prayer and charity and other good deeds.

We also seek forgiveness from those we may have wronged, even inadvertently, and are to be ready to forgive those who

may have wronged us. Yom Kippur is the most solemn day of the Jewish year, and is described in Leviticus 23:27-32 as the Day of Atonement, on which work is forbidden and observers are to engage in self-denial, which is most commonly manifested by complete fasting.

Those whose health would be imperiled by fasting must, however, eat and drink. Like Rosh Hashanah, much of Yom Kippur is spent at prayer in synagogue.

There are ample opportunities to observe the high holidays in the Fort Gordon area, at no cost to servicemembers. Also, many local residents welcome servicemembers into their homes to join in traditional holiday meals. For more information, call 791-6109, or contact:

Adas Yeshurun Synagogue: 733-9491 (Conservative)

Walton Way Temple Congregation Children of Israel: 736-3140 (Reform)

Chabad of Augusta: 722-7659 (Traditional, community evening meal Oct. 3)

Soldier finds shelter following storm

Andrew Thomas
Army News Service

FORT POLK, La. – Not since the end of the Civil War have U.S. Soldiers returned home from war to such devastation and massive rebuilding. After a one-year combat tour in Iraq, Soldiers from the 256th Brigade Combat Team, Louisiana Army National Guard, started arriving at the England Industrial Airpark in Alexandria Sept. 9.

Among the first wave of returning Soldiers was Staff Sgt. Scott Andras, assigned to the 141st Field Artillery.

Andras and his wife of 18 months Heather, own a home in New Orleans.

“We live two blocks off of St. Charles Avenue, on Broadway, in New Orleans. It’s probably 2,000 meters from the Mississippi River,” said Andras.

Heather and her family in

New Orleans had kept a watchful eye on Katrina through the days prior to her arrival, she said, listening to the meteorologists who repeatedly stated that the hurricane was going to turn north and miss the Big Easy.

“We kept hearing the storm was going to turn to the north and then it didn’t,” said Heather. She and other family members evacuated New Orleans Aug. 28, the day before Katrina made landfall.

In Iraq at Camp Justice, Andras, along with other members of the 256th, were preparing to return home while also keeping an eye on hurricane.

“We were watching CNN, the Weather Channel, the Internet – anything we could to get news on the storm,” he said.

In Iraq, the day the storm made landfall, Andras overheard a news anchor say New Orleans had “dodged a bullet

again,” referring to the slight eastern jog Katrina took, seemingly sparing the city. Excited and relieved, he called his wife.

“It was four in the morning here when he called and told me this and I thought, OK, everything is going to be fine, but we just kept watching the news,” she said.

Yet, when the levees collapsed, much of New Orleans rapidly filled with water. The Andras, one in Lake Charles and one in Iraq, like thousands of evacuees, were left to wonder what had happened to their homes.

On Sept. 12, Scott and Heather found that their 90-year-old, two-story home in New Orleans had not flooded, although the brick chimney had collapsed, allowing water to invade their home.

“We’re pretty lucky. The only real damage we had was the collapse of the chimney.



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Scott Andras and his wife, Heather stand outside their new home at Fort Polk. The couple, who live in New Orleans, were displaced by Katrina.

Army continues new Humvee upgrades

Chuck Sprague

Army News Service

CAMPARIFJAN, Kuwait—The Army is responding to the War Fighter’s request for new equipment to enhance combat operations and increase safety, by installing five upgrades to Humvees at forward repair sites in Southwest Asia.

Pentagon officials quickly approved adding: a fire suppression system, improved seat restraints, an intercom system, a gunner’s restraint, and single movement door locks for all Humvees in Iraq.

Initially, the upgrades will be installed in Humvees, but the Army is adapting some of the new equipment to other medium and heavy tactical vehicles.

Adding intercom systems to tactical vehicles with turret gun mounts will im-

prove Soldiers’ ability to communicate when under fire, officials said.

The entire tactical fleet will receive the fire suppression system. New gunner restraints will be installed on all vehicles with gun-mounted turrets, and most tactical vehicles will receive the new seat restraints.

“These safety initiatives are being implemented to enhance protection and increase survivability for our Soldiers,” said Chuck Wentworth, the program manager for tactical wheeled vehicle’s liaison office for Southwest Asia.

As more sets of the safety upgrades are received in theater, technical teams from the U.S. Army’s Tank-automotive and Armaments Command will travel to installation sites throughout the theater to train installers and provide technical

expertise on these much needed safety improvements for Soldiers in the field.

Vehicles undergoing repairs or receiving up-armor will automatically receive the new upgrades, said Col. Charles Wilson, commander of the Army Materiel Command’s Field Support Brigade, Southwest Asia. Wilson oversees all vehicle repair and upgrades in Qatar, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

These rapid response initiatives are new with Operation Iraqi Freedom, and reflect DoD mandates to immediately respond to battlefield conditions, officials said. More than 23,000 tactical vehicles have received add-on armor in Southwest Asia through this program.

(Sprague is AMC’s AFSB-SWA public affairs officer at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.)

Biting issue *From page 7*

- Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent standing water.

- Adult mosquitoes rest on weeds and other vegetation. Homeowners can reduce the number of areas where adult mosquitoes rest by removing brushy areas from around structures and regularly mowing the lawn.

More helpful information on ways to control mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus can be found at <http://c h p p m - www.apgea.army.mil/ento/facts/homecontrol.pdf>.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, very few of the mosquitoes (less than 1 percent) are infected with West Nile and less than 1 percent of individuals who are actually bitten by an infected mosquito develop severe symptoms.

“Susceptible people are the elderly, young children, and folks who have immune deficiencies,” said Ramsey. “Healthy folks that have been bitten by West Nile (infected mosquitoes) typically can

get rid of that virus in a couple of weeks.” Most healthy adults will have mild symptoms and sometimes never know they even have the virus.

Other tips that can help prevent infection.

“Wear your uniform properly,” stresses Ramsey. She encourages Soldiers to follow the mandatory DoD Insect Repellent System; the system has three steps. One is to treat your uniform with the standard military clothing repellent (permethrin). The second is to apply a thin coat of the standard military skin repellent (DEET) to all areas of exposed skin. Third is to wear the uniform properly with the sleeves rolled down to create a physical barrier against insects. Also, close all openings in your clothing that might provide access to insects: tuck pants into your boots, and under-shirt into your pants. Wear your uniform loosely, because some insects, such as mosquitoes, can bite through fabric that is pulled tight against the skin.

POW *From page 3*

Donner recalled his experience as a POW.

“It’s a hard thing but never give up. I escaped once and was recaptured. And I always said I would always keep trying,” he said about being a POW. “That’s one of the main things that a prisoner of war will do, he will always try his best to escape, and that’s in his mind forever.”

The first recognition day was held in July 1979 when

Congress passed resolutions for a commemorative day, and a ceremony was held at the National Cathedral in Washington. Every year after that, POW/MIA servicemembers have had a commemorative day in their honor.

The Defense POW/MIA Office reports that, as of Aug. 9, there are 1,815 Americans still listed as prisoners of war, missing or killed in action, or body not recovered.

Preparing for Rita

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. Northern Command is prepared to meet requests for assistance that the Federal Emergency Management Agency may issue prior to and in the wake of Hurricane Rita, military officials reported Tuesday.

The hurricane strengthened to Category 4 Wednesday and is forecast to make landfall in Texas.

To prepare for the storm’s possible landfall in Texas, 1,100 Texas National Guardsmen who had been working in Loui-

siana have been sent home. Rita has also kept some troops in the area who otherwise would have been going home, an official said.

NORTHCOM’s Joint Operations Center continues 24-hour operations in Colorado Springs, Colo., to monitor the storm’s progress and to facilitate requests that may come from FEMA representatives.

There are currently 13,753 active duty and 39,833 National Guard forces supporting relief operations in the Katrina Joint Operating Area — Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

SMA emphasizes transformation

Tim Hipps

Army News Service

LANDSDOWNE, Va. – Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston stressed the importance of Soldiers’ understanding the transformation of today’s Army during the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers annual forum Sept. 13 at the National Conference Center.

“I want to talk about transformation and give you something that all of you can take back to your commands and talk about with your fellow Soldiers,” Preston told about 200 BOSS representatives, Morale Welfare and Recreation advisors and senior military advisors attending the conference.

THREE CORE COMPONENTS OF BOSS

The forum trained Soldiers on the core components of the BOSS program – recreation and leisure, community service and well-being – through interaction and information sharing.

“I just want to say thank you to all of you for what you do each and every day as part of the BOSS program,” Preston told the Soldiers. “It is one of those things that really helps us maintain that high quality of life that we want for all of our Soldiers. That quality of life is the reason why Soldiers want to re-enlist and why they want to continue to serve.”

Preston reiterated the need for Soldiers to know what to expect in the future.

“We’re all volunteers,” he said. “We’re doing this because we want to do it. ... I think it’s important right now for Soldiers and leaders to really understand Army transformation and really understand what transformation is going to do for Soldiers and their families.”

THREE FACTORS OF RE-ENLISTMENT

Preston stressed three factors that help keep Soldiers in the Army: job satisfaction – being totally satisfied with doing what you do each and ev-

ery day; command – the leadership that drives Soldiers; and quality of life.

“I just think it’s important right now for Soldiers, particularly the ones who have been deployed and are now facing another deployment or have already gone on a second deployment, to know and understand that the senior leadership of the Army understands what it’s like to be deployed for a year at a time and understands the impact of short dwell times before going back again for a back-to-back deployment,” Preston said after making presentations to conference attendees and senior leaders.

“It’s important right now for them to understand that this transformation, that we’re doing right now, is going to bring predictability and stability to Soldiers and their families.”

BOSS FOSTERS COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Preston said the BOSS program helps.

“It’s really tied to (Soldiers’) quality of life,” he said of the

program provided primarily for single Soldiers between 18 and 25, unaccompanied troops overseas and single parents. “It really makes them feel as being part of the installation and not just their own individual unit.”

In addition to guest speakers, the conference featured best event, best installation and best Web site competitions among local BOSS groups.

BOSS focuses on providing recreational and community service opportunities for single Soldiers who provide peers with a direct link to their chain of command while improving the quality of life on installations worldwide.

“All that is tied to getting single Soldiers out of the barracks,” Preston said. “Being part of a larger family like that is one of the good incentives that keep Soldiers staying around to re-enlist.”

(Hipps writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office.)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Terrence Hayes

Fire away

Maj. Wanda Chatman, Headquarters Detachment, 116th Military Intelligence Group, fires an M9 pistol during qualification at one of Fort Gordon’s ranges Sept. 13.

Conference

From page 2

He described how SOTM would integrate with the existing USMC communications architecture and highlighted the advantages to both the Army and the Marine Corps of operating a similar SOTM system. He commented on the progress of the current USMC SOTM testing and shared some of the technical challenges they have discovered while developing this capability.

The work of the various organizations was put into perspective by Christopher Swenarton from PM Warfighter Information Network – Tactical. He described the long-term objective of the program and how it would support the future communications requirements of a fully networked Army. He outlined the contribution of SOTM technology as a vital part of WIN-T communications architecture. Swenarton further explained how WIN-T will compliment the Army’s Future Combat System, Joint Tactical Radio System and other planned programs, in order to satisfy warfighting information requirements in the Future Force.

The final presentations of the day were delivered by Carl Swenson and Dave Khahil from Communications-Electronics Research, Development, and

Engineering Center. Swenson provided an update on the ongoing Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance experimentation at Fort Dix, N.J., which includes the employment of three prototype SOTM terminals. These systems are acting as surrogate WIN-T Points-of-Presence for an FCS-equipped Brigade Combat Team. Network connectivity for these mobile systems is being provided through a satellite hub located at the Battle Lab on Fort Gordon. Khahil brought the session to a close with an explanation and description of Affordable Directional Antenna and Pointing Technologies. He concluded his presentation by highlighting the growing support for research in this technology.

The SOTM conference opened the technical dialogue for future collaboration and exchange of engineering and acquisition information between a number of Army and Joint organizations involved with developing, evaluating, and acquiring this capability for the warfighter. Since the SOTM community viewed this conference as a value to their individual SOTM efforts, another conference is planned in 2006.

Oldest Buffalo Soldier dies at 111

Joe Holley

Special to Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Retired 1st Sgt. Mark Matthews, 111, one of the last of the nation’s legendary Buffalo Soldiers, died of pneumonia Sept. 6 at Fox Chase Nursing Home in Washington.

Sgt. Matthews, who also was the oldest Buffalo Soldier, was heir to a proud military heritage that originated with the black soldiers who fought in the Indian wars on the Western frontier.

Historians say that the Cheyenne, Kiowa and Apache tribes bestowed the appellation because the soldiers’ black, curly hair reminded them of a buffalo’s mane.

Given Native American reverence for the sturdy animal of the Plains, the soldiers wore the nickname proudly – and with good reason. The Buffalo Soldiers won 20 Medals of Honor, more than any other regiment. They also helped lay hundreds of miles of roads and telegraph lines, protected stagecoaches, were involved in the military actions against the Apache chiefs Victorio and Geronimo and fought bravely in Cuba at the side of Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War.

Sgt. Matthews joined up at the end of the Buffalo Soldiers’ colorful Western exploits. The regiments that

made up the Buffalo Soldiers – the 9th and 10th cavalries and 24th and 25th infantries – stayed together for years afterward, however, fighting in World War I and II and Korea. The all-black regiments were disbanded in 1952 after the Army desegregated.

Sgt. Matthews was born Aug. 7, 1894, in Greenville, Ala., and grew up in Mansfield, Ohio. He rode horses starting when he was a child, delivering newspapers on his pony.

According to stories Sgt. Matthews told friends, family members and at least one military historian, he was 15 when he met members of the Buffalo Soldiers’ 10th Cavalry; they were visiting a Lexington, Ky., racetrack where he worked exercising the horses. When the soldiers told him that they rode horseback wherever they went, he decided he had to join up. Although young men had to be 17 to enlist, his boss concocted documents that convinced a Columbus, Ohio, recruiter that he was of age.

“I was 16 when I joined the Army to be a Soldier,” he told Parade Magazine in 2003. “I had to wait awhile before I could get on duty. But then they shipped me to the West.”

Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where he was first stationed, was still using local Indians as guides. “I learned all the different rules, how to ride the

different horses, how to jump and how to shoot,” he recalled in the 2003 interview. “Every time I got in a contest where I shot at a target or something, I usually won.”

He served along the U.S.-Mexican border as part of Gen. John Joseph “Black Jack” Pershing’s 1916 expedition into Mexico, on the trail of Mexican bandit and revo-

lutionary Pancho Villa. “I never met him,” Sgt. Matthews said in the Parade interview, “but I knew where he was at.”

In 1931, he was assigned to Fort Myer, where he trained recruits in horsemanship, helped tend the presidential stable for Franklin D. Roosevelt and played on the polo team. Ten years later, al-

though he was in his late forties when the United States entered World War II, he saw action on Saipan in the South Pacific.

He retired from the Army in 1949 and became a security guard at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. He retired a second time, as chief of guards, in 1970.

In retirement, he liked to fish. He also enjoyed sitting on the front porch and telling tales about the old days out West and the not-quite-so-old days in the Pacific during World War II, often to neighborhood kids who came around and sat at the knee of a man who had experienced an adventure-novel’s worth of stirring chapters in U.S. history.

He spent time with the children, enjoyed looking after them. He took them fishing with him, made sure they got to school, took them in if they needed a place to stay. “They called him Daddy,” daughter Mary Matthews Watson recalled.

He met with President Bill Clinton at the White House, and in 2002 marked his 108th birthday by meeting with Secretary of State Colin Powell, who for many years campaigned for a monument honoring the Buffalo Soldiers. In 1992, Powell, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, dedicated the monument at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., birthplace

of one of the regiments.

Believed to be Washington’s oldest man – the District’s Office on Aging lists a woman, Corrine Taylor, as slightly older – he had lived with his daughter in the same Northwest neighborhood for more than half a century. He had been in good health until recently. Before he began to lose his eyesight to glaucoma about 10 years ago, he enjoyed reading his Bible daily. He was a former member and trustee of Trinity AME Zion Church in the District, a member of Prince Hall Masonic Temple and a member of the Washington, D.C., Chapter of the 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association.

His wife, Genevieve Hill Matthews, died in 1986. They had been married 57 years. A daughter, Shirley Ann Matthews Mills, died in 1988.

In addition to Watson, of Washington, survivors include two other daughters, Gloria J. Matthews, also of Washington, and Barbara Jean Young of Dacula, Ga.; a son, Mark Matthews Jr. of Hyattsville; nine grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

“I did it all,” Sgt. Matthews told The Washington Post a few years ago. “Yes, I was there.”

(This article originally appeared in the Sept. 13 Metro edition of The Washington Post and is republished with permission.)



Courtesy photo

One of 1st Sgt. Mark Matthews's duties was assisting the 1916 search for Pancho Villa in Mexico.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Exercise workshops

The Health and Wellness Center and the National Exercise Trainers Association are co-sponsoring the following nationally-recognized workshops:

Group Exercise Certification, 8 a.m. **Oct. 15.**

Active Older Adults Workshop 8 a.m., **Oct. 16.**

Workshops are held at the HAWC, Building 29605.

For information call Melody Brown at 787-7459; to register call (800) 237-6242 or go to www.netafit.org.

EFMP bowling

Exceptional Family Member Program Bowling is held the third Monday of each month at 5 p.m.

EFMP Bowling is free for special needs family members who are enrolled in EFMP, and is held at Gordon Lanes.

Free shoe rental and door prizes available; cost is \$1.25 per game.

For information call Amos Demps at 791-3579.

Golf course

Gordon Lakes Golf Course is open daily, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m., offering 27 holes of play and a driving range.

Memberships are available to the public.

For information call 791-2433.

Kid's fishing derby

Fort Gordon Outdoor Recreation is having a Kid's Fishing Derby **Saturday.**

Registration begins at 7 a.m. at the Claypit Lakes. Fishing is from 8-11 a.m.

Free T-shirts for the first 300 kids. Free hot dogs and sodas will be available to each participant.

Kids need to bring their own fishing pole.

For information call Outdoor Recreation at 791-5078.

Kid's shooting day

Children ages 5 to 15 are invited for instruction and recreational shooting at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman's Complex at Range 14, **Saturday.**

The shooting range will be open from 1-5 p.m. for instructions in rifle firing, archery and skeet shooting. Each child must be accompanied by an adult while on the range. Firearms and ammunition will be supplied.

For information call 791-5078.

Bike race

The Tour of Columbia County bike race is **Oct. 1 and 2.** Cost is \$25 per day and includes a free T-shirt and lunch (Saturday only); all riders must wear helmets. All rides begin and end at Harlem High School.

The Oct. 1 ride begins at 8:30 a.m. for 45- and 65-mile loops; 11 a.m. for 10- and 20-mile loops.

The Oct. 2 ride features a 100-mile century ride beginning at 8:30 a.m.

For information, call 836-8821 or go to www.rotaryccw.org.

Golden Knights bring medals home

Sgt. Marie Schult
Army News Service

PERRIS, Calif. – The U.S. Army Parachute Team, “Golden Knights” brought home two gold medals, and numerous silver and bronze medals while competing at the 2005 National Skydiving Championships last week in Perris Valley, Calif.

The Knights hoped to win the gold in style, accuracy and four-way formation skydiving, enabling all of their competitors to travel to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale games in Europe to represent the U.S. and the Army next fall.

The Knights will be sending their Style and Accuracy Team to the 29th FAI World Style and Accuracy Parachuting Championship next September in Stupino, Russia to compete on the world stage.

“I didn’t know we won when I landed, but people came up to me and were congratulating us,” said Sgt. 1st Class Elisa Feldt, Style and Accuracy competitor.

“People said Angela (the next jumper to land) could get a .16 and we would still win. That’s when I realized how far ahead we were,” said Feldt, whose team ended up with a combined total score of .30 centimeters.

The goal in accuracy is to have the lowest score possible. The second-place team managed .55 centimeters.

“I’m certainly one of the biggest Golden Knight fans, and I’m always happy when one of our teams goes that far,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Vernon Miller, a former Knight who is now a piloting instructor at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Miller and his co-worker and former team member, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carey Mills, also a flight instructor at Rucker, came to Nationals in

order to compete in eight-way open with the current Golden Knights.

“It’s great to come back and be part of this organization,” said Mills. “It was a rewarding and an awesome privilege,” he said.

Most Knights, current and former, reached their goals and attained their dream of getting selected for the National team. However, the Knights formation freefall team missed their goal by just two points at the end of 11 rounds.

Formation freefall is an event where teams compete in groups of four, eight, 10 and 16; skydivers perform predetermined geometric formations in freefall in a predetermined amount of time. Each team has a freefall videographer recording the jump and that recording is passed off to judges upon landing.

“I’m sure the Army will always put together a great team,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Hoover, team leader for the formation freefall team, about the future of the four-way team.

Winning the gold medal in four-way and earning a slot on the national team meant more than just representing the Army and the nation to these guys. Hoover and Sgt. 1st Class Brooks Weiner are already on orders to return to their Special Forces units.

“It’s just been a really good run; I’ve enjoyed myself for the last 11 years. I’d like to see them in the future be as good at competing as they are at training,” said Hoover who is excited about moving on to his new job.

“They did a great job displaying the Warrior Ethos, of ‘never quit’. They could have easily quit after round 10 because the odds were stacked against them. But they went out there and gave it all they had,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael



Photo courtesy of Army News Service

Members of the Golden Knights U.S. Army Parachute Team build an eight-way arrowhead with four of their competition GK Alumni in the National Skydiving Championships last week in Perris Valley, Calif.

Eitniear.

“They should walk away with their heads held high. The command is real proud of them,” said Eitniear.

Once the four-way competition was done Tuesday afternoon, the Knights picked themselves up Wednesday morning, got back on the plane and gave Arizona Airspeed a run for their money in the eight-way competition.

The regular formation freefall team hooked up with some of their former team members to form the eight-way team.

“In eight-way we ended up with a very good average,” said Hoover. “Last year the winning average was 16.8; ours this year was 19.”

Airspeed and the Knights were really the only teams close

to the top. Airspeed won by a mere nine points, putting the Knights at second with 191 points, while the third place team, Paraclete, ended with 126 points.

At the 16-way competition the Knights kept up with winning spirit by bringing home the bronze medal. Airspeed and a team out of Texas, Deguello, took first and second respectively.

In 10-way speed, the Knights not only won the gold, but they also set a new national record by completing their formation in the least recorded amount of time.

Although the exact future for the formation freefall team is uncertain, the Knights have a good future to look forward to with their Style and Accuracy team. The team is certain to

spend the next year training hard in preparation for the FAI championship next year.

The team will also be incorporating some canopy piloting into their competition repertoire, according to Sgt. 1st Class Chris Moore, Style and Accuracy team leader.

In canopy piloting, athletes demonstrate their skill and precision in maneuvering parachutes very fast through a course laid out on the ground and over a pond. Competitors literally “swoop” toward the earth and pass through the first course gates at speeds approaching 75 miles per hour.

Moore explained that by expanding their competition portfolio, the Style and Accuracy team will be able to reach out to more of the public and spread the Army message.



Photo by Kristy Davies

Flagged down

During a unit flag football game, Pvt. John Hayes, Company B, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, runs with the ball after his flags were removed by defense, in a game against the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment. The Marines won the game 28-6. The flag football season kicked off Sept. 12.

Unit level flag football standings

As of Sept. 16

Teams	W	L	Teams	W	L
<i>Blue Division</i>			Co. C, 73rd Ord. Bn.	1	1
			Co. D, 551st Sig. Bn.	1	1
31st Intel Squadron	2	0	Co. B, 551st Sig. Bn.	1	2
Co. A, 67th Sig. Bn.	2	0	Marines Det.	0	2
Navy IOC	2	0	Task Force 201st	0	3
252nd Sig. Co.	2	1	<i>Women's Division</i>		
EAMC	2	1			
RNCOA	1	1			
Co. A, 551st Sig. Bn.	1	2	31st Intel Squadron	2	0
Co. B, 67th Sig. Bn.	1	3	Co. B, 551st Sig Bn.	2	0
HHC, 15 Sig. Bde.	0	3	EAMC	1	1
HHC, 93rd Sig. Bde.	0	2	Navy IOC	1	1
			Co. A, 551st Sig. Bn.	0	2
			Co. D, 551st Sig. Bn.	0	2
<i>White Division</i>					
			<i>Morning Division</i>		
206th Mil. Int.	2	0			
DENTAC	3	0			
Co. A, 73rd Ord. Bn.	2	1	Co. C, 73rd Ord. Bn.	1	0
35th MP Det.	1	1	Co. D, 551st Sig. Bn.	1	1
Co. B, 73rd Ord. Bn.	1	1	Co. B, 551st Sig. Bn.	0	1

Beth E. Musselman
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Army kicked off the All-American Bowl selection tour Sept. 14 by announcing the first participant, A.J. Wallace, a student-athlete at Maurice J. McDonough High School near LaPlata, Md.

Gen. Richard A. Cody, Army vice chief of staff, presented Wallace with the game jersey and his official invitation to play in the sixth annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl at the Pentagon ceremony.

“The Army is about investing in people; one of our core competencies is developing young men and women and investing in America’s youth. That is really what this All-American Bowl is about,” said Cody.

Wallace was joined at the

ceremony by his parents, high school coach Dave Bradshaw, and legendary football coaches Herman Boone and Bill Yoast, who were depicted in the movie “Remember the Titans.”

As a corner back and running back, Wallace scored 26 touch downs, rushed for nearly 1,400 yards, caught 12 passes for another 200 yards, made 65 tackles, intercepted three passes, and returned three punts for touchdowns.

“I would just like to thank everybody involved. I am honored to be a part of this (team). I want to thank all of the Soldiers for everything they’re doing and I will play my hardest and hope to make them proud,” said Wallace.

Four hundred football players from across the country were nominated to participate in the all-star game. Selection officials narrowed the nomina-

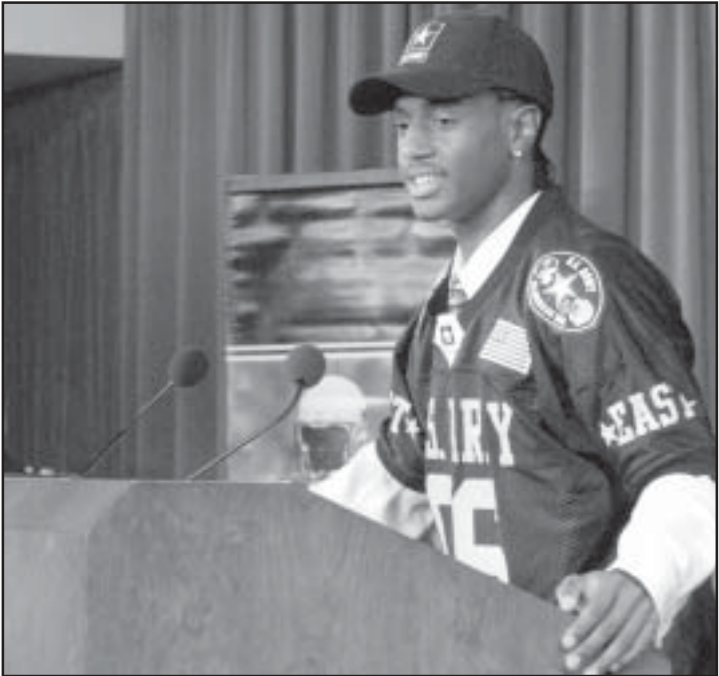
tions down to the top 78 high-school athletes.

“The connection between the athletes playing in this game and Soldiers that fill our ranks are both obvious and subtle. Both must be disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained for excellence and a willing member of the team who will never quit and who will never accept defeat,” said Cody.

“Like our Soldiers, (A.J.) takes pride in making a difference,” said Col. Thomas Nickerson, director of strategic outreach for the U.S. Army Accessions Command.

The winning team will receive the Herman Boone Trophy.

The East vs. West match-up will be played at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, and broadcast live on NBC Jan. 7, 2006, at 1 p.m. EST.



Staff Sgt. Carmen L. Burgess

A.J. Wallace, the first student-athlete chosen to play in January's U.S. Army All-American Bowl, addresses reporters at a kick-off press conference in the Pentagon.

Spectrum



An explosion can be seen from a distance after combat engineers with the 122nd Engineer Battalion set up and explode C4 on more than a dozen trees for a timber cutting training exercise downrange.



(Top) Sgt. Alan Ford, Co. A, 122nd Eng. Bn., secures C4 explosive to a tree during the timber cutting mission of demolition familiarization here. (Above) Soldiers from Co. A, 122nd Eng. Bn. run to a safe distance away from a steel cutting charge with C4 explosives.

Explosive training

Kristy Davies
Signal staff

Soldiers making a big boom came to Fort Gordon to train, when about 380 engineers from the 122nd Engineer Battalion conducted demolition training Sept. 9 to 11.

"This is just one phase of our training," explained 1st Sgt. Bill Bryant, Company C, 122nd Eng. Bn. "We go to the rifle range once a year to qualify and we also do convoy live fire and we do demolition."

The three types of demolition training being conducted on post included steel cutting, timber cutting and crater charges. The group is from the South Carolina Army National Guard, out of Edgefield, S.C.

"This is (demolition) familiarization training for all our troops," said Bryant. "We have a lot of new troops (since) we lost some people when we got back from Iraq. A lot of guys

had their time in and got out."

The 122nd ensures that the combat engineer Soldiers are trained in every aspect of demolitions, especially safety.

"When we're doing training, our main objective is to keep everybody safe and to get the maximum amount of training we can," added Bryant.

The mission of the National Guard unit is two-fold. There is a federal and a state mission for the 122nd which allows the engineers to be versatile.

"(Our) federal mission is anything from (constructing) buildings or putting roads in, fight like infantry or doing demolition missions," explained Bryant. "We do a little bit of everything...we don't have just one set mission."

Having both a federal and state mission, the 122nd must be prepared to deploy overseas or in the U.S. for hurricane relief.

"We're ready," said Bryant. "We stay ready."

During the steel cutting

charges training, Soldiers remained clear on the procedures and safety precautions. Steel cutting missions involve cutting steel such as railroad tracks, buildings or enemy bridges with C4 explosives. For training, they used pieces of railroad tracks.

Timber cutting includes using C4 explosives to clear trees.

"The real life mission is to clear an area for a (landing zone) to land helicopters, aircraft or clear an area to put a runway in," explained 1st Lt. Teddy Call, Co. C, 122nd Eng. Bn. "(For training) the idea is to use as much C4 as they have to drop the trees."

Being able to blow things up also helps the 122nd Eng. Bn. retain Soldiers.

"We get to blow a lot of stuff up," said Call. "This is what the Soldiers came in the Army for...down deep everybody is a Soldier and wants to do the Soldier tasks and there is no better Soldier task than blowing things up."



(From left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Richard Mincey, Spc. David Gipe and 1st Sgt. Bill Bryant, 122nd Eng. Bn., load explosive munitions onto a Humvee for demolition familiarization training here.



In the background of a tree blown from the dirt by C4 explosives, Soldiers from Co. A, 122nd Eng. Bn. stomp out small fires and smoldering debris after an explosion.



Spc. Brian Henderson, Co. A, 122nd Eng. Bn., from Greenwood, S.C., prepares C4 explosive on a piece of railroad track for steel cutting during demolition training.